

**N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services, Administrative Letter No. 05-03**  
**Adult Services Section**

**Date:** April 14, 2005

**Subject:** Change in the Federal Poverty Level for SA In-Home Cases

**Distribution:** County Directors  
Special Assistance Supervisors  
Adult Services Supervisors

Effective April 1, 2005, the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) increased from \$776 to \$798 per month for an individual. The purpose of this letter is to advise how this change will affect SA In-Home (SA/IH) cases.

The income limit, which is equal to the Federal Poverty Level, for an individual to qualify for the SA In-Home Program has increased to \$798 effective April 1, 2005.

The poverty level is also the Domiciliary Rate that is entered in EIS for authorized SA In-Home (SA/IH) cases.

Please note that the new individual FPL of \$798 per month will not affect payments for current SA/IH recipients. However, it could affect SA/IH applicants beginning April 1, 2005 whose total countable income is higher than the old individual FPL of \$776. These applicants may now qualify for Medicaid, and therefore for SA/IH payments if their total countable monthly income meets the new Medicaid categorically needy income limits, and they meet all other Medicaid and SA/IH eligibility requirements.

The maximum SA/IH payment is calculated by subtracting the individual's Total Countable Monthly Income from the SA/IH payment standard, and then dividing by 2. The payment standard for the SA In-Home Program remains at \$1,127. The actual payment, not to exceed the maximum allowable payment, is determined by the Adult Services case manager based on the comprehensive assessment and service plan.

**I. SA/IH Cases Active on March 31, 2005**

The following automated changes were made in EIS to all SA/IH cases (ambulation capacity code 'H') that were active in EIS on March 31, 2005.

- A. The Domiciliary Rate changed from \$776 to \$798.
- B. A Case Profile was created for each updated case, with the message:  
MASS CHANGE DUE TO SA IN-HOME RATE CHANGE.
- C. A report was created in NCXPTR identifying the SA/IH cases that updated during the mass change. The report is entitled SA DEMO IN-HOME RATE CHANGE EFFECTIVE APRIL 2005. The report is sorted by county, district number, and in alphabetical order by Casehead Payee. The report will include:
  - 1. Casehead Payee Name
  - 2. Case ID Number

3. Old Domiciliary Rate
4. New Domiciliary Rate
5. District Number

D. There is a report in NCXPTR identifying the SAA and SAD cases that were not updated in the mass change due to a pending DSS-8125. The report is entitled SA IN-HOME ERROR RPT. The report is sorted by county, district number, and is in alphabetical order by Casehead Payee Name. Items on the report include:

1. Casehead Payee Name
2. Case ID Number
3. Old Domiciliary Rate
4. District Number
5. Error Message: 8125 Pending

## **II. SA/IH Applications Pending on April 1, 2005**

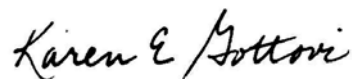
- A. Determine eligibility for SA/IH payments using the new income limit of \$798 for April 1, 2005 and later. For months prior to April 2005, determine eligibility using the income limit of \$776.
- B. If eligible, approve the SA/IH application with a Payment Effective Date of 042005 (or later if eligibility begins in a later month).
  1. The Total Countable Monthly Income cannot be greater than \$798.
  2. The Domiciliary Rate must be \$798.
  3. The Maintenance Amount cannot be greater than \$963. The Maintenance Amount must equal the Total Countable Monthly Income + the SA/IH payment amount.
- C. If the applicant is eligible for an SA/IH payment for months prior to April 1, 2005, authorize payments for those months in the "Retro" fields on the DSS-8125.

## **III. Redeterminations and Changes in Situation**

For regular reviews and for changes in situation, determine eligibility for SA/IH payments using the new income limit of \$798 for April 1, 2005 and later. For months prior to April 2005, determine eligibility using the income limit of \$776.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Adult Programs Representative, or either Brenda Porter, SA Program Coordinator or Geoff Santoliquido, SA Program Administrator at (919) 733-3818.

Sincerely,



Karen E. Gottovi  
Director